

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
HB 26
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We respectfully request that you appropriate \$450 million in funding for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2010.

Peace Corps continues to be one of America's finest expressions of friendship and solidarity across the globe. Peace Corps is an important element of America's soft power. Investing in Peace Corps enhances our credibility and moral standing abroad, while exposing people around the world to the core American values of peace, progress, tolerance and prosperity.

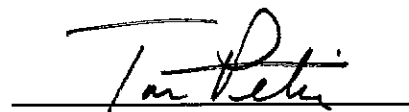
Peace Corps reports that at least 19 nations without existing programs have requested American volunteers. Even more countries would welcome an expansion of existing programs. And while more than 13,000 Americans apply annually to serve their country in Peace Corps, serious budget constraints provide placements for fewer than 30 percent of applicants. Additional resources would allow Peace Corps to establish nearly 20 new missions and provide service opportunities to thousands of Americans.

Last year, Peace Corps was forced to reduce its number of trainees, reducing the number of volunteers in the field to fewer than 8,000. A robust funding increase will reverse this trend and allow Peace Corps to expand at the rate that President Obama has advocated. We believe a \$450 million Peace Corps budget is the minimum necessary to enable the agency to responsibly achieve the President's stated goal to double Peace Corps over a two to three year period.

We appreciate the ardent support you have provided to Peace Corps in the past and welcome the opportunity to work with you to innovate, expand and support Peace Corps in FY 10 and for years to come.

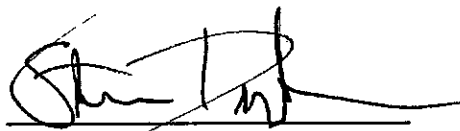
Sincerely,


SAM FARR, M.C.
RPCV Colombia, 1964-66

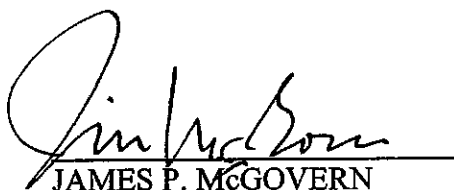

THOMAS E. PETRI, M.C.
RPCV Somalia, 1966-67



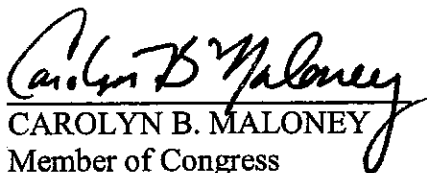
MICHAEL M. HONDA, M.C.
RPCV El Salvador, 1965-67



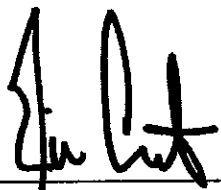
STEVE DRIEHAUS, M.C.
RPCV Senegal, 1988-91



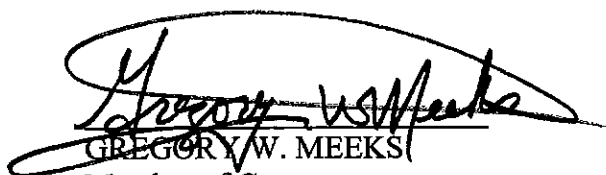
JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



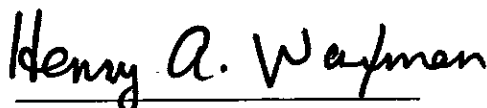
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



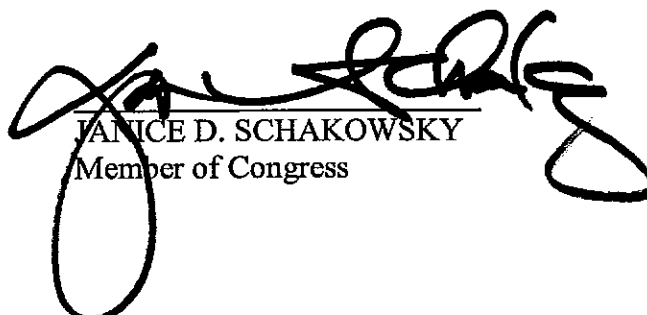
MAZIE K. HIRONO
Member of Congress




GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

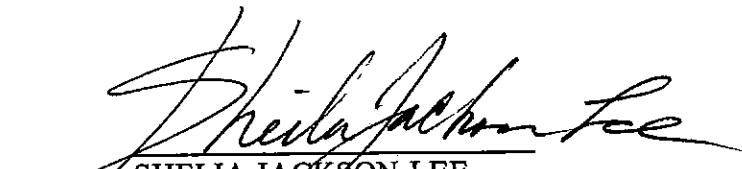



RUSH D. HOLT
Member of Congress

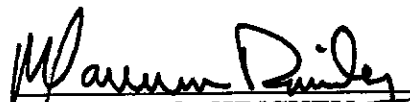



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

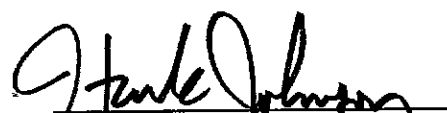

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress


SHELIA JACKSON-LEE
Member of Congress



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



MAURICE D. HINCHEY
Member of Congress

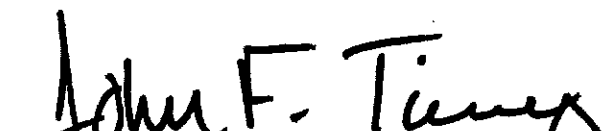

LEONARD L. BOSWELL
Member of Congress

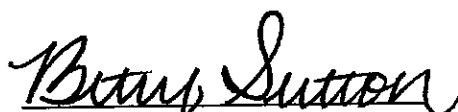

HANK C. JOHNSON
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



FORTNEY PETE STARK
Member of Congress

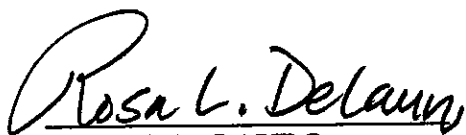

JOHN F. TIERNEY
Member of Congress


BETTY SUTTON
Member of Congress


MICHAEL E. McMAHON
Member of Congress


GREGORIO SABLÁN
Member of Congress

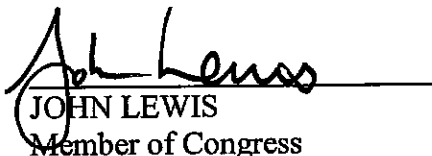

JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



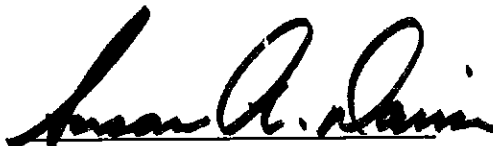
ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



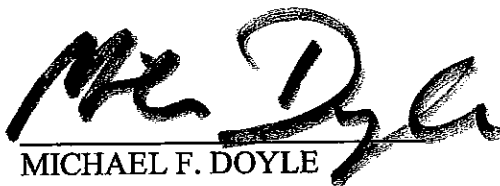
TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



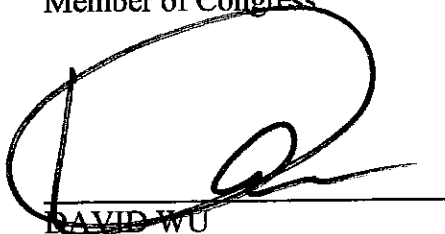
SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



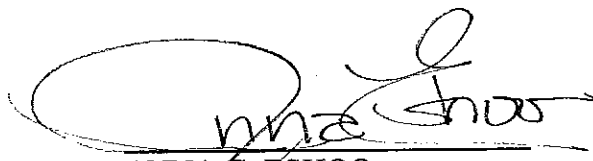
MICHAEL F. DOYLE
Member of Congress



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress



DAVID WU
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



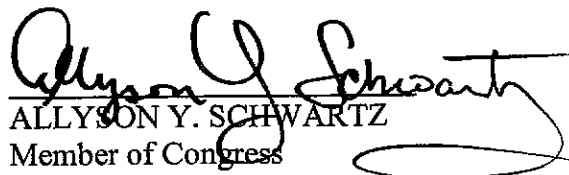
WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



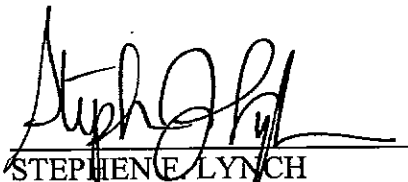
JIM GERLACH
Member of Congress



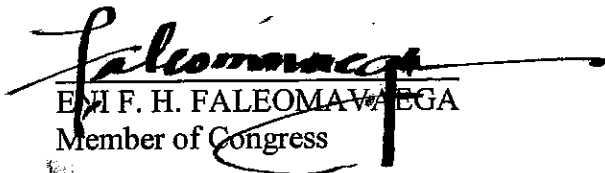
ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress

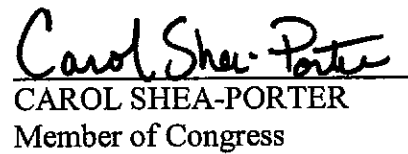


HARRY E. MITCHELL
Member of Congress

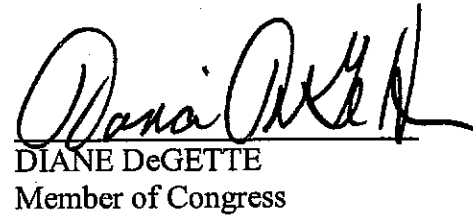


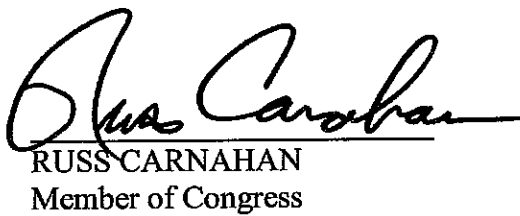
STEPHEN E. LYNCH
Member of Congress

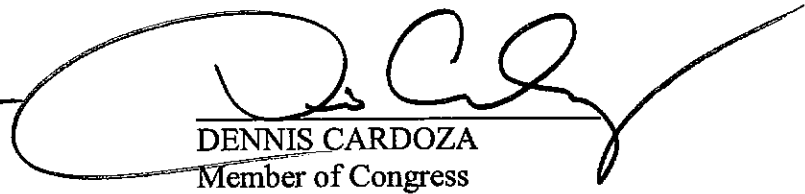

ED F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress

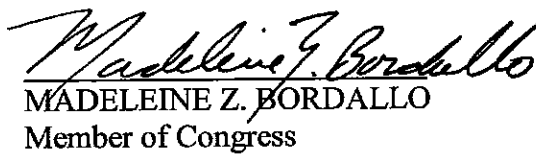

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress

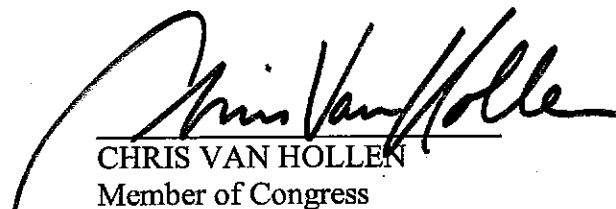

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress


DIANE DeGETTE
Member of Congress

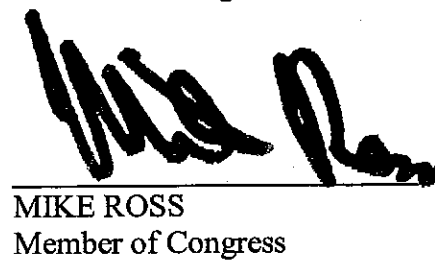

RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress

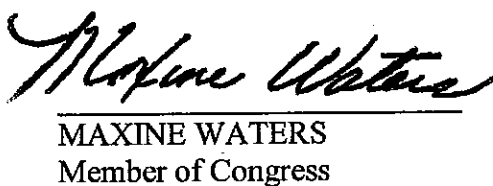

DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress

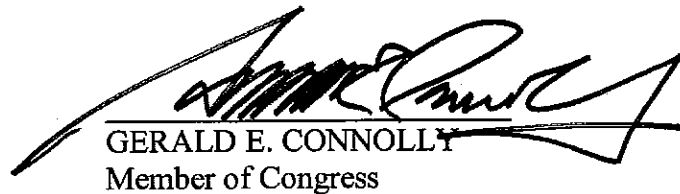

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress


CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress


MARY JO KILROY
Member of Congress

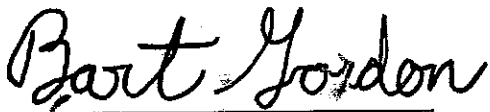

MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress


MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



BART GORDON
Member of Congress



ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



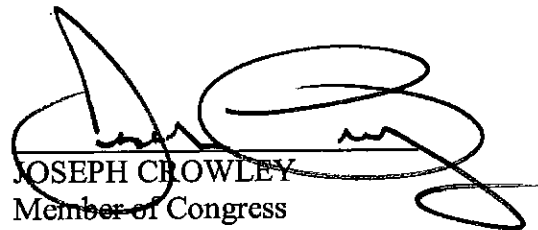
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



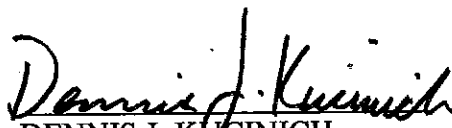
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



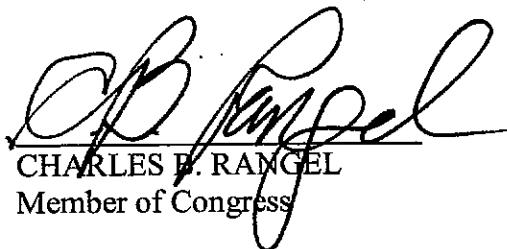
DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress



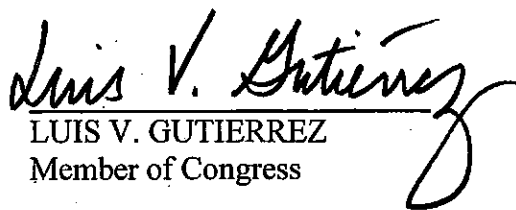
CHARLES E. RANGEL
Member of Congress

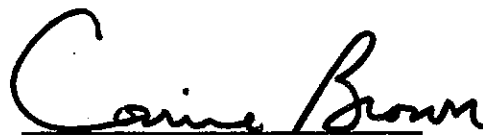



EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress




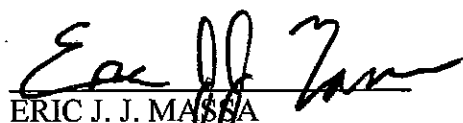
DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress


LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress


CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress


BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress


BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress


ERIC J. J. MASSA
Member of Congress

Jim McHenry

John

James

Howard

Ellen

Lisa

Lynn

Kim

Viv

Ann

D. Beinhart